



Two Statewide Special Specifications Replaced

New Statewide Special Specifications **1058, “Compost”** and **1059, “Compost/Mulch Filter Berm”** replace SS 1027 and 1034 respectively. The new specifications are approved for use on all projects starting with the February 2003 letting (see Specification Change Memorandum dated Nov. 5, 2002). QCQA controls have been added to ensure the continued use of quality materials. Among the changes:

- All compost must be Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) certified.
- As before, all producers must present a lab analysis proving that their compost has met the physical requirements. This analysis must be performed by an STA-certified lab.
- Designated stockpiles for each TxDOT project must be maintained at the producer’s site.
- TxDOT inspectors are to collect samples and send them to an STA-certified lab. (This lab should be a different entity than that utilized by the producer’s QC personnel.) A minimum of one sample per stockpile must be taken. The quart-sized samples should be packed in airtight plastic freezer bags. Bill all tests to the Contractor.
- Stockpiles must not increase in size after samples have been taken.
- Test results should be sent to both the Contractor and the Area Engineer.
- The Contractor will be reimbursed for passing tests only, by sending a copy of these invoices to the Area Engineer for force account reimbursement. (Test fees range from \$275 – \$400.)

SS 1058 also defines the ratio of compost to topsoil in Compost Manufactured Topsoil (25% compost/75% topsoil), and the ratio of compost to wood (50% compost/50% wood) in Erosion Control Compost. These pre-established ratios will eliminate the need for definitions in the plans or general notes.

Information about the Seal of Testing Assurance program is available at <http://tmecc.org/sta/index.html>.

Information about Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost is available at <http://tmecc.org/tmecc/index.html>.

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